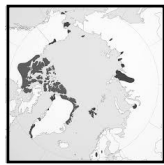


World of Reading

MUSK OX



The musk ox inhabits Arctic regions. Most musk oxen live in North _____ and Greenland and they number about 100000. The majority of North American musk oxen are in Canada and most are on Banks Island in Canada. Outside North America, smaller populations exist in Sweden, Norway and Siberia (Russia).

The musk ox is noted for its much needed woolly thick coat, horns and its musky scent from which derives its name. The musk ox (male) is about 2-2.5 metres _____ at the shoulder. They weigh on average almost 300kg. Both sexes have long curved _____. During the mating season the male gives off a strong _____ scent and will kick the cow to get her attention. The dominant male will have a harem of 6-7 _____ and will chase off juveniles. Bulls roar and paw the ground in warning. Charging bulls will back up 20 _____ in preparation for a fight.

Musk ox generally graze on _____ but other plants and mosses will suffice in winter. The pregnant cows direct the herds around the Arctic depending on the season. In summer the musk ox grazes in river _____ but seek out higher terrain in winter. In Arctic regions the snow is too deep in lower lying areas.

Predators of the musk ox include Arctic _____, grizzly _____ and polar bears. To defend itself the musk ox will form a circle and face outward. The young _____ will be inside the circle. The bulls will take up prominent positions on the edge of the circle. It is a formidable defence.

The Inuit people or _____ (Alaska) have long hunted musk ox as a traditional means of survival. Musk oxen were however close to _____. A ban on hunting allowed numbers to improve. The near extinction of the animal posed a threat to the Inuit people. Large breeding programs, especially in Alaska, have increased the numbers of musk ox to a point where the Eskimo can continue to _____ the musk ox.



COMPREHENSION



REWRITE
- Eskimo
Hunter

1. In what continent do most musk ox live? _____
2. In which country do most musk ox live? C _____
3. On which island are there large numbers of musk ox? _____
4. What type of scent do male musk ox give off? _____
5. How tall is a musk ox at the shoulder? _____
6. How far do bulls back up before charging? _____
7. In what season do the oxen graze near rivers? _____
8. What two bears are predators of musk oxen? _____
9. Which musk ox are protected inside the defence circle? _____
10. What is another name for The Inuit People? _____

CLOZE

GRASSES
WOLVES
CALVES
ESKIMOS
AMERICA
HIGH
BEARS
HUNT
EXTINCTION
METRES
MUSK
HORNS
COWS
VALLEYS

MISSING WORDS



Reference: wikipedia.org/wiki/Muskox

